

Resolution No.: 15-1253  
Introduced: December 13, 2005  
Adopted: December 13, 2005

**COUNTY COUNCIL  
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

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By: Councilmembers Nancy Floreen and Michael Knapp

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**SUBJECT:** Opposition to the Maryland Transit Administration's Proposal to eliminate service to the Brunswick line MARC train stations at Boyds and Dickerson in Montgomery County

**Background**

1. MARC (Maryland Rail Commuter) Train Service, administered and funded by the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), is operated under contract with CSX. There are three systems in operation, the Brunswick, Camden, and Penn Lines.
2. The Brunswick Line, which is the longest line in the system, runs between Martinsburg, West Virginia and Union Station in Washington, DC, serving 11 stations in Montgomery County.
3. MTA has signaled their intent to close 4 MARC stations, two of which are in Montgomery County - the Boyds and Dickerson stations, which have a long history as railroad stops. Residents in the area are very concerned. A public hearing on this proposal is scheduled for December 15, 2005 in Barnesville.
4. For decades, Montgomery County has been focusing efforts and resources to increase and enhance commuter options to encourage residents to take public transportation and leave their cars at home. The MARC trains, one of our convenient and effective commuting choices, carry approximately 5,500 passengers per day.
5. Six of the MARC stations serve the upcounty region, the fastest growing area in Montgomery County. This service will become increasingly important to our northern residents. For instance, Clarksburg, which adjoins the community of Boyds, is master-planned to house 40,000 residents in the near future. Many of these residents will use the MARC trains to commute to work.
6. This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve, 93,000 acres set aside for the preservation of agriculture and open space. One of the key

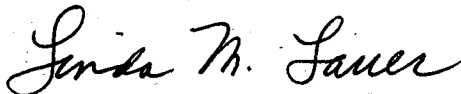
7. elements in preserving this vital natural resource is to ensure transit alternatives that the Boyds and Dickerson MARC stations provide.
8. Closing these two upcounty stations would work against our efforts to increase commuting options and serve our residents.

**Action**

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

The Council strongly opposes the Maryland Transit Administration's proposal to close the MARC Train Service stations at Boyds and Dickerson on the Brunswick line in Montgomery County, which will decrease important commuting service to the residents of the upcounty.

This is a correct copy of Council action.



Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council